

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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AID-20 ACDA-19 OMB-01 RSR-01 /133 W

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R 051128Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4552

INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

CINCPAC

UNCLAS BANGKOK 10375

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, OREP, MOPS, TH, CB

SUBJ: F.M. THANOM ON CAMBODIA BOMBING RESTRICTIONS;
U.S. PRESENCE

FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM USIS TRANSLATION OF
PRIME MINISTER THANOM'S JULY 4 NEWS CONFERENCE. BEGIN
EXCERPTS:

THANOM: REGARDING THE CESSATION OF BOMBING, THAILAND
FEELS WORRY OVER THE SITUATION IN LAOS AND ESPECIALLY IN
CAMBODIA. AS I HAVE STATED MANY TIMES ALREADY, THE
GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS THAT THE SECURITY AND STABILITY
OF LAOS AND OF CAMBODIA IS OF DIRECT IMPORTANCE FOR
THE SECURITY OF THAILAND. SINCE, HOWEVER, IT IS AN
ABSOLUTE NECESSITY FOR THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT TO STOP
BOMBING IN CAMBODIA AFTER AUGUST 15 IT CAN ONLY BE HOPED
THAT BEFORE THAT DATE IS REACHED THAT A WAY WILL HAVE
BEEN FOUND TO REACH AGREEMENT ON A CEASEFIRE IN CAMBODIA,
EITHER DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY. WE ALSO HOPE THAT NORTH
VIETNAM WILL WITHDRAW ITS TROOPS FROM LAOS AND CAMBODIA
IN ORDER TO GIVE THE PEOPLES OF BOTH THOSE COUNTRIES THE
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OPPORTUNITY TO REMEDY AND REACH AGREEMENT ON POLITICAL
PROBLEMS INSIDE THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES WITH NO INTER-

REFERENCE FROM OUTSIDE. THIS IS OUR HOPE. BUT WHEN AUGUST 15 IS REACHED AND SHOULD THIS HOPE NOT HAVE BECOME FACT, THEN PRESIDENT NIXON MIGHT REQUEST FOR SPECIAL POWERS IN ORDER TO CONTINUE BOMBING IN CAMBODIA. THIS IS ACCORDING TO A STATEMENT HE HAS MADE ALREADY.

IN REGARD TO AMERICAN MILITARY FORCES STATIONED IN THAILAND, SHOULD THE TASKS AND DUTIES THEY ARE PERFORMING BE ENDED AND SHOULD IT BE CONSIDERED THAT THERE IS NO LONGER ANY NECESSITY FOR THEM TO CONTINUE REMAINING HERE, TALKS WILL HAVE TO BE HELD AND AGREEMENT REACHED BETWEEN THE THAI AND AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS. BUT WE CONSIDER THAT THE PRESENCE OF AMERICAN MILITARY FORCES IS STILL OF IMPORTANCE TO THAILAND AT PRESENT, BECAUSE THE BOMBING THEY CARRY ON OUTSIDE OUR COUNTRY PREVENTS THE COMMUNISTS FROM REACHING US QUICKLY. END EXCERPTS.
MASTERS

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